TAIG

JUNE 1982

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President	Peter Asch	825-1242	Vice-president	Steve Crowley	944-5152
Secretary	Mike Doleman	861-1893	Treasurer	Jim Dahlberg	423-1963

MEETING NOTES: MAY 23, 1982

A review of the upgrade chips for ATARI pointed out that the GTIA chip and two OS are available. Also the fast format chip for the disk drive and a data seperator that brings the disk up to snuff are available. What is not readily available is the floating point chips which were recalled due to bugs. The new data for their availability is June 18th.

Mention of the need for articles for the newsletter was made with a reminder that the author will be 'paid' with a free program from the library.

A new book on ATARI is out and available at B.Dalton. It's called YOUR ATARI COMPUTER and sells for $15.

It was noted that many dealers are dropping ATARIs because of discounting through chain stors and poor shipping.

No one volunteered to be the TAIG representative to the Twin Cities Computer Association. Anyone who would like may still do so.

An informal survay showed that there is enough interest to start TAIG programming classes. The fee for eash session will be $2.00. If all goes

well classes will start in July.

Bill Nordstrom will chair a education special interest group. If you are interested call him at 475-1475.

There were no service reports but a fair number of places are now officially servicing ATARI. They are:

Component Assemblers
17225 Round Lake Rd
Anoka 753-2240

Philips Comm. & TV Sys.
748 NE Harding St.
Mpls. 378-7200

Audiosonic Service
2007 W Burnsville Pkwy
Burnsville 890-6616

Audiosonic Service
327 14th Av SE
Mpls. 378-9322

H&H TV & Electronics
2625 Louisiana Av
St. Louis Pk. 929-1721

Computer Castle
240 Town Sq.
St. Paul 227-3526

S.A. Electronics
1605 University Av
St. Paul 645-9273

Audiophile
3140 Snelling Av
S Mpls. 729-9386

THE GRAPEVINE

From the ATARI COMPUTER ASSN. of ORANGE CTY. A member who had just bought a disk drive wanted to put an add in the newsletter to sell all his cassette software. Could he legally sell this software? TAIG reply. It may help to check 17 USC 106. You can legally make backup copies of computer software, but then selling the original copy and keeping the backups takes you out of bounds legally. Anyone keeping backups after selling originals should order his pegleg and eye patch right away.

From the ATARI Computer Club of OKC. Atari dedicated bulletin boards.

(503)343-4352	ACE, Eugene, OR
(202)276-8342	Washington, D.C.
(313)868-2064	MACE, Michigan
(408)942-6975	Unofficial Atari BBS- the SYSOP works here.
(212)861-1212	New York

From JACG, New Jersey. Seems ATARI is having trouble with current 410

recorders. The policy is that they will service any 410 recorder at no charge, even if it is out of warranty, to compensate for this.
Also- Yes, the data separator seems to solve almost all the disk drive problems. It turns out though, that the voltage regulators are connected to the main board by a not too secure arrangement. This can drastically affect speed control. In fact, the service centers have taken to direct soldering instead of using these connectors. So, if you are still having reading problems, suspect these connectors.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The following programs are currently in the pay library. Cost $2.00 each.

Bug and Spider	chase game	Dungeon	adventure
Dupany	copy disk utility	Flags	guess the flag
Lunar	lunar lander game	Math.tut	math drills
Othello	Othello game	Screendump	to Epson (GR.8)
Simon	memory game	Surround	blockade game
Text Writer	formerly typewriter	XYgraph	plots a graph
Robotwar	avoid the robots	Morsecdr	morse code drills

The following are in the free library.

Termin-modem	modem program	Vidtex28.00	Compuserve's modem
Autorun.sys	for disks	Tapeback	backups boot tapes
Mathprint	drills on printer	Adventure	an adventure
Disasm	disassembler	Updnload	cassette modem
UltraPM	player missile demo	Wumpus	hunt the wumpus
Soundtest	control sounds	Missile	missile command
Nitemare	just run the program	Autorun.cas	for csaved files
Autorun.bld	autorun.sys builder	Fugue2	plays a fugue
Biochart	plots biorythm	Variable.lst	lists variables
Lander	lunar lander game	Botch	hangman game
Dayoweek	day of the week	Vegas	slots simulation
Metrics	conversion program	Robotwar	Avoid the robots
Horse	running horse demo	Booklist	Database system
Doggies	game for thinkers	Begintyp	typing drills
Alien	shoot flying ships	Chopstix	a little music
Hangman	what do you think	Pluszero	chase that zero
TTT	tic-tac-toe	DDhelper	creates players
Errtrap	trapping utility	Alcohol	blood alcohol %
Gallery	shootem down		

The June Disk-of-the-Month is a disk based adventure called Adventure. It will cost you $4.00 to get yourself killed by a rattlesnake. WARNING: Do not enter the cave at the beginning of the game. The program will error out.

The library recently acquired more public domain disks from other users' groups. One of these disks is full of Music Composer files. What I would like to do is have everyone with a Music Composer that would like this disk to sign a sheet at the meeting. That way I will be able to make the right number of disks for next month. This disk will be in addition to the normal disk of the month in July. You can disco away with it for $4.00. Some programs are; Cantina (from Star Wars), Star Wars theme, Jesus Christ Superstar, and Greensleeves, along with some Christmas music.

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Children Will Play
by Phil Seifert

This is not Phil writing the introduction this month. What happened to Phil, you ask? He is stuck in the Great Underground Empire, also called Zork. Phil has been unable to find his way out. But the following transcript was written by him and delivered by this weird vampire bat.

(barely legible)

I hope this month's article gets to you in time for printing. I am not to sure about that bat (who is a reject from Wumpus) understood my directions. If you have trouble reading this, it might be because I had to write in blood, my own (after many battles). Listen, if you have a drive and at least 32k, I implore you to purchase Zork and come down to get me out of here. My lamp batteries are running low and you know how nasty those grues are, don't you?

While traveling in a coal mine, I heard a voice whisper three new programs are out. Canyon Climber (Datamost), Bug Attack (Cavilier), and Pathfinder (Gebelli). All three, according to the little voice, are on disks and costs $30.00. It said my alter ego in the real world purchased Canyon Climber. It seems he liked it better than the other two, but Bug Attack almost won. Pathfinder, he thought, should join me down here, lost forever. Canyon Climber has graphics resembling Donkey Kong in the arcades. The idea is to get to the top avoiding the goats, indians shooting arrows, and little birds dropping rocks on your head.

Bug Attack is a variation of Centipedes. Pathfinder from Gebelli (of

Andromeda fame) was a clean up operation. The nuclear power plant had a little accident. Since you are the janitor, you have to clean it up. But beware, the radioactivity created some monsters out to get you.

There have been rumors circulating among the thieves down here saying that Canyon Climber will be coming out on cassette, and maybe Pathfinder. They plan on mugging Datamost and steal Canyon Climber. I wonder whose computer they are going to play it on. Oh!oh! They are looking at me! Help, police!

I wonder what happened at the consumer show in Chicago. What's that you say...oh! I have just been informed that there will be a trak-ball for you people who can't stand joysticks in Missile Command and Centipedes. I wonder how good it is for $80.00. The same company is selling two new joysticks. I hope they are heavy duty ones.

Ulysess, in my copy of Ulysess and the Golden Fleece, hasn't been doing too well. Could anyone provide some help? It is a program from On-line Systems, another one of their hi-res adventures. Comes on three disks, requires 40k, and costs $39.95. It is a decent adventure, but I am looking forward to Time Zone from the same company. It is rumored to take twenty disks for the Atari, has 39 different scenarios, and takes at least a year to play if you are good. Just think, I would have to buy 2 boxes of disks to back it up. I know that the Apple version sells around $100.00 and hope that the Atari one would too.

A high score has been given to me via the bat express. Bradner Smith has accomplished a score of 150,000 in Asteroids with three ships remaining. He claims he quit because his hand was sore, he was getting bored, and his sister wanted the computer. Take your choice. While I am on the subject of high scores, I got a score of 33,450 in Krazy Shootout. Unfortunately, I only got a rank of Blaster Class 2. I want a Marksman so bad I can taste it. I haven't eaten in three days, so I think I could taste anything. Will somebody send some food down here?

Come on guys, you already stole everything from me. The thieves are approaching. I gotta run. See you next month (I hope).

Funeral services for Phil will be held on June 27, 1982. A memorial fund will be set up at Northwestern National Bank Southwest, Account number 54-76-3726

Subject: Atari Computer Education Subgroup

An education subgroup of the Twin City Atari Interest Group (TAIG) has been established. It's primary goal is to improve the use of computers as educational tools.

To get this group started, the following topics have been suggested:

1. The group would address education from the pre-school through the adult levels.
2. Home and school type education would be discussed.
3. The group will encourage participation from educators, users and writers of educational software.
4. It will address traditional class subjects (reading, writing, math) and non-traditional.
5. The group will work with MECC to make the needs of Atari users in schools known.
6. The group will serve as a forum to share experiences with the use of computers in the educational environment.

To get the ball rolling, Bill Nordstrom has volunteered to coordinate this project. If you are interested in participating in this group or have any questions contact Bill. Some time in June or July there will be a notice for the first meeting.

Bill Nordstrom
14340 12th Avenue North
Plymouth, MN 55441

Home: 475-1475
Work: 937-4014 (M-Th)

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From D.C. French:

I finally got around to the Programming Challenge #2 (arrange the digits 1-9...) in the April TAIG Newsletter. My solution took 0.11667 seconds! The highest line number in my program is 1. Impossible? A trick you say? Not at all. The solution to this and to any problem solving task is to carefully analyze the problem before crashing into some mindless brute force programming solution.

By utilizing the knowledge that a number is divisible:

1. by 3 only if the sum of its digits = 3
2. by 4 only if its last 2 digits are divisible by 4
3. by 5 only if its last digit is 0 or 5
4. by 8 only if its last 3 digits are divisible by 8 (or, as in this case, if its last 2 digits are divisible by 8 and the preceeding digit is even)
5. by 9 only if the sum of its digits is divisible by 9
6. by 2 only if its last digit is even

and doing such simple mental arithmetic as summing three digits and testing

two digit numbers for divisibility by four or eight or three, it was possible to reduce the problem to testing eight seven digit numbers for divisibility by seven. Hence the short, fast program.

‡‡‡

Honorable Mention: Tony Iten for a solution that took 1 min. 34.07 sec.

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FAST CASSETTE LOAD

by Dave Thompson

From the West Valley ATARI Users Group Newsletter

I'm sure that any Atari user worth his RAM has read many articles including one on turning off the DMA, and said, "A lot of good that will do me." Well, it can do you some good if you want to cut your loading time down considerably. All you have to do is load your program and then insert a new cassette (just a precaution). Then in direct mode type POKE 559,0:CSAVE:POKE 559,34 and then press return and your screen will go blank. The POKE 559,0 turns off the DMA and the POKE 559,34 turns the DMA back on again. You will hear the usual BEEP BEEP, and you will press play and record on your recorder and then press RETURN. Then get ready because after the initial time for the cassette to space the leader forward, your cassette will really start to move data. Instead of the TV making the usual BEEP pause pause pause BEEP, you will hear BEEP BEEP and so forth till your program is completely saved, then your screen will come back on. There is one small drawback. You cannot see the display on your screen, a small price when you have your tape saved at increased speed. When you load your program you just type in the normal CLOAD, and your tape will load as fast as it was saved.

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Several exciting new products will be released by DataSoft in late July. COMPILER ($99.95) will be released the 3rd week of July. It requires 32K and a disk drive and will include a free run-time package. SOFT TERM ($49.95) is a communication package. It includes upload and download programs and will feature 10 function keys that can be pre-programmed by the user. SPELL WIZARD ($79.95) will include a 25,000 word dictionary and work with both TEXT WIZARD and the Atari Word Processor. Users will be able to add and delete words.

HOUSE of FORMS will give a 10% discount to TAIG members on printer supplies. Address is 20 N. 1st Street, Minneapolis, or call 332-4866.

TWINCITY
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INTEREST GROUP

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JUN 23
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1982

Wise shoppers stretch dollars.
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TAIG Meeting Notice
Sunday June 27th, 7:00 P.M.
Minnesota Federal S & L
31 9th Avenue, Hopkins